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Control: 1973
Rec'd: APRIL 2, 1963
11:53 PM

FROM: GUATEMALA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 616, APRIL 2

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 616, INFORMATION SAN SALVADOR 47, POLAD CINCARIB UNNUMBERED.

PASS DEPTAR FOR ACSI

PASS CSAF FOR AFNIN

RE: EMBTEL 605

EMBASSY THIS MORNING RECEIVED NOTE DATED APRIL 2 FROM NEW FONMIN HERRARTE EXPRESSING DESIRE NEW GOG MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND GUATEMALA. SUBSTANCE NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

NIGHT OF SATURDAY 30 MARCH THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, ACTING WITH UNANIMITY, FOUND ITSELF OBLIGED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT, WITH COLONEL ENRIQUE PERALTA ASSUMING EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS. THIS SERIOUS DECISION WAS THE ONLY FEASIBLE FORM OF PUTTING AN END TO THE MORAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHAOS WHICH WAS THREATENING GUATEMALA. ADDITIONALLY, THE COUNTRY WAS ON THE VERGE OF CIVIL WAR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE SUBVERSIVE ATTITUDE OF COMMUNIST LEADERS WHO WERE WORKING WITH ELEMENTS INFILTRATED INTO THE DEPOSED REGIME, WITH THE TOLERANCE AND COMPLACENCY OF THAT REGIME. THE CITIZENRY HAS ACCEPTED THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE ARMY WITH TRUE SATISFACTION; AND ORDER, PEACE AND NATIONAL HARMONY HAVE BEEN RESTORED IN THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC.

THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ... DATE ...
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 7900252 Schlesinger

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-2- Gtb, [illegible] FROM: GUATEMALA CITY

THE ARMY HAS [illegible] SOLELY IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND WITH A VIEW [illegible] GUARANTEEING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IT IS THE FIRM INTENTION [illegible] CURRENT GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONAL BONDS OF CORDIAL FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAVE ALWAYS [illegible] GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA WITH THE ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT AND NOBLE PEOPLE OF YOUR COUNTRY. IT IS ALSO THE FIRM [illegible] THE GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT ALL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS.

[illegible] PROCLAIMED AFTER JUNE 1, 1963

BELL

[illegible]

NOTE: PASSED DEPTAR FOR ACSI, CSAF FOR AFNSN 4/3/63.

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